

## Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 USSS-00 USIE-00 FBIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

DRC-01 /086 W

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O 052200Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1697

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 4138

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: HUTCHINSON KIDNAPPING - LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE FROM 4:30 PM,  
OCT 4 TO 3:30 PM, OCT 5.

1. THE MAJOR STORY DURING THE LATE AFTERNOON WAS THE REPORT DESCRIBING THE APPARENTLY AMICABLE FACE-TO-FACE CONVERSATION MENDEZ VARGAS HAD WITH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR, AND THE VENZUELAN CHARGE DE AFFAIRES DURING THE AFTERNOON DELIVERY OF FOOD AND WATER. A PLAY-BY-PLAY ACCOUNT OF EVENTS WAS GIVEN.

2. REPORTERS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH NOTHING OFFICIAL HAD BEEN SAID, NEGOTIATIONS WERE BEING CONDUCTED BETWEEN THE KIDNAPPERS AND THE GOVERNMENT. THIS WAS CONFIRMED BY MAXIMO ARES, FATHER OF ONE OF THE HOSTAGES, WHO HAD SAID HE HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM AN OFFICIAL SOURCE WHOM HE DID NOT WANT TO REVEAL THAT THIS WAS THE CASE. BECAUSE OF THIS ASSURANCE, BOTH MAXIMO ARES AND HIS WIFE, WHO HAD BEEN SUFFERING FROM A NERVOUS CONDITION, WERE BOTH RELIEVED.

3. EVENING COVERAGE CONSISTED OF A SUMMARY OF THE EVENTS OF  
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THE DAY. ON-THE-SCENE REPORTS CONTINUED TO DESCRIBE THE

"TENSE CALM" WHICH PREVAILED IN THE AREA.

4. AROUND 9:00 PM THE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL POLICE HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE WERE THE CHIEF'S STATEMENT THAT PUBLIC ORDER WAS NOT NEGOTIABLE AND THE BEST COURSE FOR THE KIDNAPPERS WOULD BE TO SURRENDER TO THE AUTHORITIES. IN RETURN, THE KIDNAPPERS WOULD RECEIVE THE GUARANTEE THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE MALTREATED WHILE THEY WERE AWAITING TRIAL. HOWEVER, IF ANY OF THE HOSTAGES WERE HARMED, THE KIDNAPPERS COULD EXPECT SIMILAR TREATMENT. THE CHIEF SAID THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE KIDNAPPERS WERE SUICIDAL AND WOULD HEED THE WARNING THE GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN THEM.

5. SATURDAY MORNING COVERAGE WAS A REVIEW OF FRIDAY'S EVENTS. THE VENEZUELAN VICE CONSUL'S WIFE SAID THAT HER HUSBAND NEEDS MEDICINE DAILY AND IF HE DOESN'T RECEIVE IT HE MIGHT DIE. SHE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW A DOCTOR TO ENTER THE CONSULATE AND GIVE MEDICAL AID TO THE HOSTAGES AND KIDNAPPERS WHO NEED IT. PLINIO MATOS MOQUETE ISSUED A STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE KIDNAPPERS ACTION AS A "HEROIC ACT." MATOS MOQUETE FELT MENDEZ VARGAS' OFFER WAS BOTH RATIONAL AND HONORABLE IN VIEW OF THE PHYSICAL STATE OF SOME OF THE HOSTAGES. MATOS MOQUETE PROTESTED THE JAILING OF JOURNALISTS AND MENDEZ VARGAS' WIFE, SAYING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTING AN ABUSE OF POWER. THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT HAS THE FINAL WORD IN SOLVING THE PROBLEM AND HE HOPES THAT A SOLUTION CAN BE REACHED WITHOUT THE LOSS OF BLOOD.

6. AMBASSADOR HURWITCH WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE US GOVERNMENT WAS NOT OFFICIALLY INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT US OFFICIALS WERE NOT IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH PERTINENT DOMINICAN OFFICIALS TO OFFER COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENTS WERE FIRST HEARD ON VOA'S "BUENOS DIAS, AMERICA" PROGRAM AND LOCAL RADIO STATIONS ATTRIBUTED THE REPORT TO VOA.

7 REPORTING DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE MORNING CONSISTED OF THE NEWS THAT FIELD TELEPHONES HAD BEEN INSTALLED TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE KIDNAPPERS AND THE POLICE OFFICIALS. THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT IS AN INDICATION THAT THE PROBLEM MAY BE RESOLVED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW HOURS.

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8. AROUND 2:00 P.M. SECURITY FORCES MOVED TO THE CORNER OF LEOPOLDO NAVARRO AND BOLIVAR BECAUSE IT WAS ABOUT TIME FOR THE NEXT DELIVERY OF FOOD AND WATER. WHEN THE DIPLOMATS ARRIVED, IT WAS NOTED THAT THEY HAD BROUGHT A MUCH LARGER BOX THAN USUAL, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE THEY WERE ALSO DELIVERING CLOTHES FOR THE HOSTAGES. MENDEZ VARGAS TALKED TO THE DIPLOMATS, BUT NOT FACE-TO-FACE AS YESTERDAY. AFTER TALKING TO MENDEZ VARGAS,

THEY TALKED WITH THE HOSTAGES INSIDE THE CONSULATE. AMBASSADOR  
HURWITCH WAS TALKING IN ENGLISH, BUT NONE OF THE CORRESPONDENTS  
WERE CLOSE ENOUGH TO HEAR WHAT WAS SAID. THE REPORTER WONDERED  
WHY THE TELEPHONES WHICH WERE INSTALLED THIS MORNING WEREN'T  
USED SINCE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER AND MORE DISCREET FOR  
ALL PARTIES CONCERNED. AS OF 3:30 NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS  
WERE REPORTED.  
HURWITCH

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** ASEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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